

Daschle Democrats over tax cuts or oil drilling. It's from giving the impression that on everything but the war, Tom Daschle might as well be President.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that a summary of the bill, which is H.R. 4, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the summary was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUMMARY—H.R. 4, THE SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

H.R. 4 is the legislative portion of the president's comprehensive energy policy. It aims to secure America's energy future with a new national energy strategy that reduces energy demand, increases energy supply, and enhances our energy infrastructure and energy security.

REDUCED DEMAND

Reauthorizes federal energy conservation programs and directs the federal government to take leadership in energy conservation with new energy savings goals.

Expands Federal Energy Savings Performance Contracting authority.

Increases Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Weatherization and State Energy Program authorization levels to meet needs of low-income Americans.

Expands the EPA/DOE Energy Star program and directs the EPA and DOE to determine whether Energy Star label should extend to additional products.

Directs DOE to set standards for appliance "standby mode" energy use.

Reduces light truck fuel consumption by 5 billion gallons over six years.

Improves Federal fleet fuel economy, expands use of hybrid vehicles.

Increases funding for DOE's energy conservation and energy efficiency R&D programs.

Expands HUD programs to promote energy efficient single and multi-family housing.

INCREASED SUPPLY

Provides for environmentally-sensitive oil and gas exploration on Arctic Coastal Plain.

Authorizes new oil and gas R&D for unconventional and ultra-deepwater production.

Royalty relief incentives for deepwater leases in the central and western gulf of Mexico.

Streamlines administration of oil and gas leases on Federal lands.

Authorizes DOE to develop accelerated Clean Coal Power Initiative.

Establishes alternative fuel vehicle and Green School Bus demonstration programs.

Reduces royalty rate for development of geothermal energy and expedites leasing.

Provides for regular assessment of renewable energy resources and impediments to use.

Streamlines licensing process for hydroelectric dams and encourages increased output.

Provides new authorization for fossil, nuclear, hydrogen, biomass, and renewable R&D.

ENHANCED INFRASTRUCTURE ENERGY SECURITY

Sets goals for reduction of U.S. dependence on foreign oil and Iraqi oil imports.

Initiates review of existing rights-of-ways and federal lands for energy potential.

Directs DOE to implement R&D and demonstrate use of distributed energy resources.

Invests in new transmission infrastructure R&D program to ensure reliable electricity.

Requires study of boutique fuel issues to minimize refinery bottlenecks, supply shortages.

Initiates study of potential for renewable transportation fuels to displace oil imports.

Offers scholarships to train the next generation of energy workers.

Prohibits pipelines from being placed on national register of historic places.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Finally, I hope as Members reflect on their responsibility, they recognize that we are at war. This war may expand and extend itself. The continued exposure based on our dependence on imported oil and the likelihood that the flow of oil imports might be disrupted mandates that we have an energy policy and that we have it done in a timely manner. Let's recognize the obligation that we have in voting on this. Is it a vote to respond to the demands of America's environmental community, or is it a vote to do what is right for America?

We have already lost two sailors as a consequence of our dependence on oil from Iraq. I don't want to stand before this body and say I told you so, but if we don't pass an energy bill that will reduce our dependence on Iraqi oil, we are doing our country a grave injustice. It is contrary to the majority of public opinion in this country. Seventy-six percent of public say we should be taking up and passing an energy bill over any other bill. That includes the farm bill and the Railroad Retirement Act. If we ever get to the stimulus, I hope somebody would search their minds and memories to see if they can come up with a better stimulus than the proposal associated with holding up ANWR.

I am somewhat disappointed we were not able to have more time today. Hopefully, the leadership can work out coming in at noon on Monday.

I thank the Chair for its courtesy. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise to comment on the words spoken earlier this morning by my very good friend and colleague from Rhode Island, Senator REED. Earlier this morning, Senator REED announced his intention to bring S. 767, the Gun Show Background Check Act, to the Senate floor this year.

At the outset, I deeply respect the Senator from Rhode Island. I think he is a very fine public servant, one of the brightest and most dedicated with whom I have had the privilege to serve. I respect his concerns about guns generally and guns in America. I do not believe, as he stated, that instituting background checks at gun shows will correct the concerns he raised. The events of September 11 and the ensuing concerns about terrorist threats have led to a resurgence by some for stricter gun laws. But with all due respect, responding to terrorism by calling for background checks at gun shows is not an effective tool for making this country safer.

The hijackers of September 11 were not armed with guns. The tragic deaths

of thousands in New York didn't involve a single bullet. The anthrax that arrived in the office of my next door neighbor, Majority Leader DASCHLE, had nothing to do with background checks. The acts of the terrorism on America to date have not been related to guns in any form.

I am not trying to deny the risks and dangers that we face from weapons in the hands of terrorists. But I do not believe that terrorist organizations are buying their weapons one pistol at a time from American gun shows, nor do I believe that closing the so-called gun show loophole will result in fewer guns in criminal hands.

I strongly support the actions our law officials have taken to make our country a more secure place since September 11. And I thank them for their dedication and hard work. They have worked so hard and in many cases overtime, extra hours, no vacation. It is amazing and inspiring. But while we tighten our borders and patrol our country, we must remember the balance between protecting our safety and protecting our civil rights.

Restricting our citizen's access to firearms chips away rights protected by the Constitution. Cloaked in the mantle of eliminating terrorism, bills such as "The Gun Show Background Check" restrict the second amendment and make it more difficult for law abiding citizens to purchase guns.

My State of Montana has a heritage based on hunting and enjoying the great outdoors. Gun shows are events typically held in town meeting halls on weekends. They are very well attended. They are big events. You would be astounded at all the people there going to and fro and talking and exchanging information. People come together and meet neighbors and possibly purchase a rifle to be used on a hunting trip. In addition, gun shows simply are not set up with the technology to make background checks feasible. They are temporary events, and they are not able to be connected to the NICS system for background checks. It is technically impossible.

I appreciate deeply my colleague's concerns, but I do not believe that gun show checks begin to address terrorism or gun violence. We have safeguards in place to keep guns from falling into the wrong hands and focusing on guns when talking about terrorism is missing the bigger picture.

Let's move on to getting an economic recovery bill passed to boost our economy and prove to the terrorists that their actions cannot stop America's progress. Let's get our aviation security bill implemented so our citizens can get back up in the air with complete confidence. Right now, it is the big picture on which we must focus. Gun shows aren't part of the problem, and background checks at the gun shows are not part of the solution.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORZINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, every December first since 1988, World AIDS Day has been a day dedicated to sending messages of compassion, hope, solidarity, and understanding.

Commemorating this day is a small but important gesture, and it is the least we can do in the face of the worst pandemic mankind has ever known. Yesterday, UNAIDS and the World Health Organization released a joint report that illustrates the enormity of the AIDS pandemic. The numbers are so staggering that they are almost incomprehensible. There are now 40 million people living with AIDS. Two point seven million of them are children. In the past year, there have been 5 million new HIV infections and 3 million AIDS deaths.

Many countries are seeing their future—embodied in their young people—ravaged by this disease. People under the age of 25 represent half of all new HIV infection cases, and there are now 10 million people between the ages of 15 and 24 living with HIV/AIDS. Every minute, five more young people are infected with HIV. As I have argued before, this is not just a humanitarian issue, it is also an economic and national security issue.

The International Labor Organization reports that by 2020, AIDS will reduce national workforces so much that countries with the highest rates of prevalence will see their GDPs drop by as much as 20 percent in the next 20 years. How can companies in these nations afford the increased costs for insurance, benefits, training, and illness in his environment?

The Food and Agriculture Organization reports that 7 million farm workers have died from AIDS-related causes since 1985, and 16 million more are expected to die in the next 20 years. How can these countries maintain—let alone increase—agricultural output under these circumstances?

The United Nations reports that in 1999, 860,000 students in sub-Saharan Africa lost their teachers to AIDS. How can countries educate their children with these losses? These numbers are a disturbing snapshot of the epidemic today. Tragically, they may only be the tip of the iceberg.

Experts tell us that the epidemic in many parts of the world is still in its early stages. Globally, most people infected are unaware they carry the virus. Many millions more know nothing about HIV and how to protect themselves against it. If we are ever to staunch the AIDS epidemic, we must continue—and increase—our efforts at prevention.

Since the 1980s, the United States has found prevention efforts such as school-based education, perinatal prevention programs, and screening the blood supply, to prove effective. As a member of the family of nations, we have to do a better job of promoting and supporting international prevention and education programs. We were able to take a positive step in the foreign operations appropriations bill, where the Senate added significant funds to invest in prevention programs around the globe.

I am hopeful the final bill will include those funds, but prevention and treatment must go hand in hand, because without treatment options, at-risk individuals have no incentive to submit to testing or to practice prevention. We have taken some positive steps in treating HIV/AIDS, but much more needs to be done. We have worked hard to invest \$300 million for the U.N. Global Trust Fund on AIDS, TB, and Malaria. While it is not nearly enough for this challenge, it is a significant first step.

As that fund is developed, we have to make sure that its resources are dedicated to fighting this disease on all fronts—including treatment. While there is pressure to limit the focus of the fund to prevention alone, that would be a mistake—and it would limit our ability to develop a comprehensive agenda to confront this pandemic.

The theme designated for this year's World AIDS Day is simply: "I care. Do you?" While our words today are important, it is our action every day—on all fronts, in all nations—that are the true measure of our caring. On this day, let us recommit ourselves to fighting, and ultimately defeating, this scourge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for 4 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my two friends I have certainly no problem with the Senator from New Mexico speaking for 4 minutes, and I understand my friend from Oklahoma wants to speak for 10. When we came in this morning, we made an announcement we would try to wrap up by 1:15 p.m. today. We would have tried to do it sooner, but with the cloture petitions pending Senators had until 1 p.m. today to file their amendments. We wanted to really wrap this up. The Dirksen Building is going to be closed off. In fact, the process is beginning now. By 4 p.m., it will be wrapped up.

I have a few things to do when the two Senators complete their statements, and then we will close the Senate. We did not ask for a unanimous consent this morning, thinking some-

thing such as this might happen, but we appreciate the cooperation and look forward to the statements of the two Senators.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from New Mexico be recognized for 5 minutes, the Senator from Oklahoma for 12 minutes, and that I be recognized to close the Senate following those statements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STIMULATING THE ECONOMY

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, first I say to the occupant of the chair, the junior Senator from New Jersey, when he came to the Senate he brought with him a rather distinguished career in investment banking, as I understand it, with a specialization in bonds. Whatever the case may be, he brought with him a tremendous expertise with reference to the American economy. Therefore, it makes me doubly proud that the idea many people suggested to me, that ends up being called a Social Security withholding tax holiday for 1 month, is supported by the occupant of the chair, because I give a lot of credit to somebody who comes to the Senate from the business world, talks with the business world, talks with labor union people and comes up with an analysis of what will, indeed, be the best economic stimulus of those that have been presented that could be adopted before Christmas and be effective, regardless of the arguments, during the next 4 to 5 months. It clearly could be in full effect.

First, those who have supported me from the standpoint of business are in pretty good company. So whatever we hear from some, that this cannot be implemented and that maybe it is not a good idea, let me introduce a letter which I received on November 30. It is a very current letter. It is from the Business Roundtable. Now, the Business Roundtable has a lot of American business members. This letter comes from the president, John Castellani—good Italian American name. We had not spoken in advance of my amendment, but this letter, so everybody will know, is an unequivocal enforcement of the holiday as being the best economic stimulus and the best news to provide confidence in the American people and that will move the economy ahead in terms of what it needs to give it a jump start in these very difficult times.

We all know we ought to do two big things. One, we ought to pay for all the military needs of our country in a very good appropriations bill. The President has told us what he needs. We need to do that. I understand it will be done next week. That is good.

The other thing we have to do is pass a stimulus package. We do not have to pass a package that has a "stimulus" label on it. We have to pass one that could be sent out to the business community, to the others who know what is happening in the American marketplace, and ask them, will this actually